

compared with the types of both *Pterodroma fisheri* (Ridgway) and *Pterodroma gularis* (Peale), as well as with other pertinent material. Whatever the ultimate disposition of the apparently unique type of *Pterodroma fisheri*, it is certain that the two specimens from Alaska here mentioned are properly referable to *Pterodroma gularis*. They are, it is true, lighter and more greyish than the type of *Pterodroma gularis*, but not more so than other recently collected specimens of this species, so that the differences exhibited are surely not more than individual variations. In accordance with this identification, *Pterodroma gularis* should be added to the list of North American birds. I have long suspected this, but have only recently verified the identification through Dr. Oberholser.

The use of the generic name *Pterodroma* Bonaparte (1856) instead of *Astelata* Bonaparte (1857) has already been explained by Dr. E. Hartert (Handlist Brit. Birds, 1912, p. 154), the date (1855) usually cited for the latter proving to be wrong.—A. C. BENT, Taunton, Mass.

Blue Geese on Long Island.—Long Island is quite out of the usual range of the Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*), and I recall but one record for that locality — 1893 — when Mr. Wm. Dutcher stated that there was one specimen in the collection of the Long Island Historical Society, killed many years ago by Col. Nicholas Pike. That bird was taken on Shinnecock Bay, but the date does not seem to be known. The record appears in 'The Auk,' Vol. X, p. 270.

Within the last few years at least two separate captures of Blue Geese have been made on Long Island, by Captain John H. Prentice, 307th Infantry, while shooting geese over live Canada Geese decoys. Capt. Prentice, at Montauk, L. I., in November, 1911, killed a single Blue Goose, which came in over his decoys. The following year (1912) in the month of October, five Blue Geese came in, and all were secured. In the captures of each year one or more of these birds was sent to the taxidermist Thomas Rowland, in Sixth Avenue, New York, where I saw them. One of them was apparently a bird of the year without any white patches. Two of the specimens were preserved and are now mounted in Capt. Prentice's house at Montauk.

The line of migration of the Blue Geese is usually given as through the Mississippi Valley, and I believe that, in these days, stragglers in other regions are seldom encountered.—GEO. BIRD GRINNELL, New York City.

The Whistling Swan at Cap St. Ignace, P. Q.—On October 11 last, a flock of seven swans (*Olor columbianus*) was seen on the beach of the south side of the river St. Lawrence at Cap St. Ignace, about forty miles below Quebec. All these birds have been shot and six of them have been sent to me in the flesh to be stuffed. It is the second record of the presence of the bird in our province, that I know of. They were quite tame and seemed to be starved so that the hunters easily shot them.—C. E. DIONNE, Quebec, Canada.

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria solitaria*) in New Mexico.—A single specimen of the eastern form of the Solitary Sandpiper has been for some time in the collection of the Biological Survey, identified as *Tringa solitaria cinnamomea*. A recent examination of the specimen, however, shows that it is certainly a typical example of the eastern race, *Tringa solitaria solitaria*. It is a male in juvenal plumage, taken at Guadalupita, New Mexico, at an altitude of 6800 feet, on August 7, 1903, by Mr. A. E. Weller, and it now bears the number 193391 in the United States National Museum. It constitutes the only authentic record for New Mexico.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) in Massachusetts.—On September 15, 1917, on the edge of a fresh water pond, at Haverhill, Mass., I saw a rail which I supposed was this species, but I was unable to secure it. Just a month later in the same spot I again saw it, and succeeded in shooting it. The specimen was identified from a photograph, by Mr. E. H. Forbush and Mr. Walter Rich, and by Mr. M. Abbott Frazer, the taxidermist who mounted it.—CHARLES B. MORSS, *Haverhill, Mass.*

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) Eating Birds.—The old duck hunters of Ashbridge's Marsh, Toronto, called this species "Snipe Owl." They claimed that its appearance in the fall was coincident with that of the Wilson's Snipe. This was true, at least, in the fall of 1909 when both species arrived at the same time.

Between September 28 and October 16, 1909, I spent several days collecting in a small dry meadow, on the south shore of Ashbridge's Marsh. Short-eared Owls were more numerous than usual and were apparently feeding entirely on small birds. Four stomachs examined contained feathers and bird bones exclusively. In a small tract of dry grassy meadow, roughly estimated at fifty acres, I found feathers of the following species, marking the spot where they had been eaten by the owls; one Hermit Thrush, one Sora, three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, one Slate-colored Junco, one White-crowned Sparrow, and eighteen others, of which there were not enough feathers left to identify the species.

During April and the early part of May of the following spring, the owls were again plentiful, preying on the hosts of migrants, that rested along the sandbar, after crossing Lake Ontario. With one exception all the castings examined contained the bones and feathers of small birds. This meadow was swarming with voles, but only one pellet, of the many examined was composed of the fur and bones of voles.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia.*

Downy Woodpecker in Colorado.—I have a specimen of the Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates p. medianus*) taken on Clear Creek, near Golden, Colo., on February 25, 1917. The bird is a female and as the white spottings on the lesser wing coverts are somewhat restricted, I hesitated there-